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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE  
TO RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY PRIORITY  
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INFO RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY  
RUEHUJA/AMEMBASSY ABUJA 1361  
RUEHAR/AMEMBASSY ACCRA 1214  
RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 1365  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 0626  
RUEHDK/AMEMBASSY DAKAR 0991  
RUEHKM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 1419  
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 3797  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 1188  
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 1840  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0592  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1582  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC  
RUEHC/DEPT OF LABOR WASHDC  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC  
RUEFDIA/DIA WASHDC//DHO-7//  
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC  
RUFOADA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK//DOOC/ECMO/CC/DAO/DOB/DOI//  
RUEPGBA/CDR USEUCOM INTEL VAIHINGEN GE//ECJ23-CH/ECJ5M//

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 HARARE 001322

SIPDIS

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AF/S FOR S. HILL  
NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR B. PITTMAN  
STATE PASS TO USAID FOR M. COPSON AND E.LOKEN  
TREASURY FOR J. RALYEA AND T.RAND  
COMMERCE FOR BECKY ERKUL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/12/2016  
TAGS: [CH](#) [EAGR](#) [ECON](#) [EFIN](#) [PGOV](#) [ZI](#)  
SUBJECT: KEY ZANU-PF MP ENCOURAGES USG SUPPORT FOR REFORM  
PUSH IN PARLIAMENT

REF: HARARE 1317

Classified By: Ambassador Christopher Dell under Section 1.4 b/d

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Summary  
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11. (C) U.S. Economics Professor Craig Richardson, who was in Harare to speak at the October 5 American Business Association of Zimbabwe (ABAZ) forum (reftel), along with econoff, met October 4 with Walter Mzembi, the outspoken ZANU-PF Chairman of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Lands, Land Resettlement, Agriculture and Water Resources. Mzembi said his Committee had drawn conclusions similar to Richardson,s on needed reforms. He added that on a recent trip to China, Chinese officials had also recommended market reforms. Mzembi encouraged the Embassy to target 15-20 ruling party MPs to push for reform, and praised the USAID-sponsored SUNY Center for International Development for its effective work with the committees. End Summary

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Committee Chair Agrees on Need for Ag Sector Reform  
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12. (SBU) Richardson shared with Mzembi visual evidence (reftel) of the cost of destroying property rights in the agricultural sector in Zimbabwe. Mzembi asked permission to use Richardson's material in his own presentations, to which Richardson agreed. Mzembi pointed out similarities between

several of Richardson's conclusions and those drawn by his Committee in its recent Report on the State of Preparedness by the Agricultural Sector for the 2006/7 Summer Crop Season (e-mailed to AF/S separately), including especially the need for farmers to have land tenure as a means to encourage investment.

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Message from China: Embrace Market  
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13. (C) Mzembi, who was a member of a recent GOZ delegation to China, relayed the gist of those meetings, including with the chairman of the Chinese People's Congress. According to Mzembi, Chinese officials' advice to the delegation had been to "follow the market route, and take an example from us and what we have achieved." There was no "magic formula" for driving up production other than putting the right legislative framework in place and deregulating the market. The Chinese reaction to the GOZ's request for loans had been to "deal with the Zimbabwean mindset first," before China would open its purse.

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Request for USG Assistance  
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14. (C) Turning to Parliament, Mzembi encouraged the Embassy to focus on ZANU-PF and to target 15-20 ruling party parliamentarians to push for reform. He cautioned against any inclination to write off Parliament. In that regard,

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Mzembi said the USAID-funded SUNY Center for International Development, which has assisted development of parliamentary committees, had done excellent work in developing the potential of the parliamentary committee structure to bring the Executive branch to account. There was not a committee that had not ruffled the Executive's feathers, thanks to the good work of SUNY, he said. Mzembi appealed to the USG for further support and suggested it send a delegation of MPs on a study trip to the US Congress.

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Comment  
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15. (C) Parliament could be a key factor in advancing a reform agenda in Zimbabwe. MPs from across the political spectrum have been increasingly restive at their lack of influence over policy, openly critical of the executive branch, and have increasingly called for reforms. To that end, we plan to use the SUNY project to encourage greater parliamentary independence as well as to increase the institution's capacity for independent action.

DELL